

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ **BLACK BORDERS**
- ☐ **IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- ☐ **FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- ☐ **COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- ☐ **GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- ☐ **LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- ☐ **REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- ☐ **OTHER:** _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.

Requested Patent: WO0014900A1

Title:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISTRIBUTED OPTIMAL REVERSE LINK
SCHEDULING OF RESOURCES, SUCH AS RATE AND POWER, IN A WIRELESS
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM ;

Abstracted Patent: WO0014900 ;

Publication Date: 2000-03-16 ;

Inventor(s): HOLTZMAN JACK;; REZAIIIFAR RAMIN ;

Applicant(s): QUALCOMM INC (US) ;

Application Number: WO1999US20982 19990910 ;

Priority Number(s): US19980151391 19980910 ;

IPC Classification: H04B7/005; H04Q7/38 ;

Equivalents: AU6036799, EP1112624 (WO0014900), JP2002524962T ;

ABSTRACT:

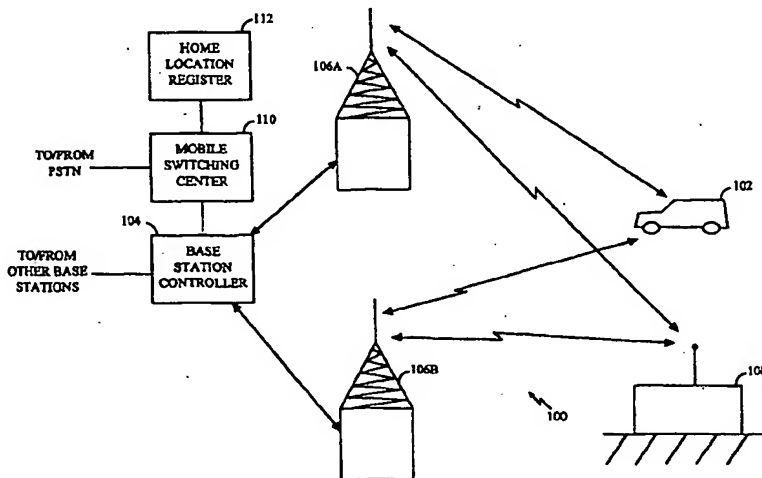
A method, and corresponding apparatus, applies to individual base stations (106) in a wireless communications systems, where each base station (106) performs rate assignment to mobile stations (102) optimally, but independently of the other base stations (106). Different base stations (106) affect each other through other cell interference, and continuously modify their reversed link rate assignment based on the other cell interference received and the requested rates from the mobile stations (102). The base stations (106) converge to a stable condition with uncoordinated optimizations. The optimizing technique maximizes total throughput in each cell (maximizing rates) while maintaining interference to other cells at a minimum level.



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : H04B 7/005, H04Q 7/38	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/14900 (43) International Publication Date: 16 March 2000 (16.03.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/20982 (22) International Filing Date: 10 September 1999 (10.09.99) (30) Priority Data: 09/151,391 10 September 1998 (10.09.98) US (71) Applicant: QUALCOMM INCORPORATED [US/US]; 5775 Morehouse Drive, San Diego, CA 92121-1714 (US). (72) Inventors: REZAIIFAR, Ramin; 7580 Charmant Drive #2224, San Diego, CA 92122 (US). HOLTZMAN, Jack; 12970 Caminito Bautizo, San Diego, CA 92130 (US). (74) Agents: MILLER, Russell, B. et al.; Qualcomm Incorporated, 5775 Morehouse Drive, San Diego, CA 92121-1714 (US).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISTRIBUTED OPTIMAL REVERSE LINK SCHEDULING OF RESOURCES, SUCH AS RATE AND POWER, IN A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

**(57) Abstract**

A method, and corresponding apparatus, applies to individual base stations (106) in a wireless communications systems, where each base station (106) performs rate assignment to mobile stations (102) optimally, but independently of the other base stations (106). Different base stations (106) affect each other through other cell interference, and continuously modify their reversed link rate assignment based on the other cell interference received and the requested rates from the mobile stations (102). The base stations (106) converge to a stable condition with uncoordinated optimizations. The optimizing technique maximizes total throughput in each cell (maximizing rates) while maintaining interference to other cells at a minimum level.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISTRIBUTED OPTIMAL
REVERSE LINK SCHEDULING OF RESOURCES, SUCH AS
RATE AND POWER, IN A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION
SYSTEM**

5

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to communication systems. More particularly, the invention relates to methods and apparatus for scheduling or assigning resources such as rate and power in a wireless communication system.

10

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Several multiple access communication techniques are known in the art, such as time division multiple access (TDMA) and frequency division multiple access (FDMA). However, the spread spectrum modulation techniques of code division multiple access (CDMA) provide significant advantages over other multiple access modulation techniques. CDMA techniques in a communication system are disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,901,307, entitled "SPREAD SPECTRUM MULTIPLE ACCESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM USING SATELLITE OR TERRESTRIAL REPEATERS," and U.S. Patent No. 5,103,459, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR GENERATING SIGNAL WAVEFORMS IN A CDMA CELLULAR TELEPHONE SYSTEM," both assigned to the assignee of the present invention.

Since CDMA employs a wideband signal, it spreads the signal energy over a wide bandwidth. Therefore, frequency selective fading affects only a small part of the CDMA signal bandwidth. CDMA also provides space or path diversity through multiple signal paths that simultaneously link a mobile station or user with two or more cell-sites. Furthermore, CDMA can exploit the multipath environment by allowing a signal arriving with different propagation delays to be received and processed separately. Examples of path diversity are illustrated in U.S. Patent No. 5,101,501 entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING A SOFT HANDOFF IN

COMMUNICATIONS IN A CDMA CELLULAR TELEPHONE SYSTEM," and U.S. Patent No. 5,109,390 entitled "DIVERSITY RECEIVER IN A CDMA CELLULAR TELEPHONE SYSTEM," both assigned to the assignee of the present invention.

5 CDMA modulation techniques require that all transmitters be under precise power control to manage interference in the system. If the transmission power of signals transmitted by a base station to a user (the forward link) are too high, it can create problems such as interfering with other users. Most base stations have a fixed amount of power at which to
10 transmit signals, and therefore can transmit to only a limited number of users. Alternatively, if the transmission power of signals transmitted by the base station is too low, then some users can receive multiple erroneous transmitted frames. Terrestrial channel fading and other known factors also affect the transmission power of signals transmitted by the base station.
15 Thus, each base station needs to adjust the transmission power of the signals it transmits to its users. A method and apparatus for controlling transmission power is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,056,109, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING TRANSMISSION POWER IN A CDMA CELLULAR TELEPHONE SYSTEM," assigned to the
20 assignee of the present invention.

Under one CDMA standard, described in the Telecommunications Industry Association's TIA/EIA/IS-95-A Mobile Stations-Base Station Compatibility Standard for Dual-Mode Wideband Spread Spectrum Cellular System, each base station transmits pilot, sync, paging and forward traffic
25 channels to its users. Under this standard, power control signals or codes are also exchanged between each base station and the mobile stations to provide appropriate power control for the system.

Improvements to the above standard have included additional, higher data rates. These higher data rates help provide for data services
30 beyond traditional voice services. Voice services typically tolerate higher error rates than data services (e.g., a maximum bit error rate (BER) of 10^{-3}), but require continuous bit stream transmissions with no delays. Most data, such as electronic mail, facsimile and general computer data, may use

discontinuous, packetized data transmissions. Such data typically must be transmitted at bit rates higher than speech, but are insensitive to delay and require lower error rates. For example, facsimile, general computer data and email typically are transmitted at bit rates of 8-32 kbps, 0.1-1 Mbps, and 9.6-128 kbps, and maximum BER's of 10^{-4} , 10^{-9} and 10^{-9} , all respectively. Video requires even higher bit rates and lower error rates than voice, and, like voice, requires continuous bit stream transmissions. For example, low resolution video typically requires a bit rate of 64-128 kbps and a maximum BER of 10^{-5} .

To be efficient, a wireless communication system must not provide the same data rate, error rate and bit stream (power) for all services based on the most stringent requirements of any one service. Therefore, one prior technique employs dynamic control algorithms for admission or registration control, resource allocation and error recovery and at burst or packet levels for a given base station. See, e.g., A. Sampath, P. Kumar and J. Holtzman, "Power Control and Resource Management for a Multimedia CDMA and a Wireless System," PIMRC, 1995. Such a system, however, may provide ad hoc or immediate service allocation, which is not efficient or optimized. Each new service request is allocated at that time by the base station. Additionally, while one base station may optimize itself for an immediate service allocation, such optimizations may well create interference for adjacent base stations. If one base station is optimizing itself, interference it receives from an adjacent base station, (which is itself optimizing) can cause two adjacent base stations to continually create interference for each other and thereby result in an unstable condition within the wireless communication system.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One solution to the possible problem of interference between base stations or cell sites during resource optimization, such as rate and power optimization, is to employ a central processor or selector that synchronously controls each cell. A centralized controller, however, requires complex computations for each cell, and the computational burden grows

exponentially with each additional cell. Moreover, a centralized controller requires information to be transmitted between base stations, as well as to the centralized controller. Furthermore, such a centralized controller may require that all base stations perform interference measurement and rate
5 assignment synchronously, thereby further increasing the complexity of such a centralized approach.

The inventors have developed a technique where each base station performs the rate assignment optimally but independently of the other base stations. Different base stations affect each other through other cell
10 interference, and continuously modify their reverse link rate assignment based on the other-cell interference received and the requested rates from the mobile stations. Under the inventors' technique, the base stations converge to a stable condition with uncoordinated optimizations (*i.e.*, without a central processor).

Under one embodiment of the invention, a distributed reverse link
15 rate assignment technique assigns reverse link rates optimally within each cell, while also maintaining interference to other cells at a minimum level. The optimization technique maximizes the total throughput in each cell subject to a set of constraints, such as the following constraints: mobile
20 station's maximum transmit power, mobile station's requested rate, discrete set of possible rates, maximum rise-over-thermal interference at the base station, and a minimum required received error per bit normalized for noise (E_b/N_0).

Each base station assigns rates in such a way that minimizes other-cell
25 interference by assigning higher rates to mobile stations closer to the center of the cell, and lower rates to mobile stations further from the center of the cell.

In a broad sense, one aspect of the invention embodies a communications system having at least first and second base stations
30 exchanging communication signals with at least first and second user stations, respectively. A method under the communication system includes: (a) receiving transmission requests from the first and second user stations, respectively, and scheduling requests received from other user

stations, wherein the first base station optimizes the scheduling independently of the scheduling of the second base station and minimizes interference with the second base station, and vice-versa, and (b) transmitting first and second assignment signals to the first and second user stations respectively, wherein the assignment signals specify at least one transmission criteria at which the user stations are to transmit data.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the figures, like reference numbers identify similar elements. For ease in identifying the discussion of any particular element, the most significant digit in a reference number refers to the figure number in which that element is first introduced (e.g., element 204 is first introduced and discussed with respect to FIG. 2).

FIG. 1 illustrates a wireless communications system employing the invention.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a power control system for use in the wireless communication system of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a flow diagram showing distributed rate assignment between two base stations of two cells.

FIG. 4 is a flow diagram showing distributed rate assignment with greater than two base stations and associated cells.

FIG. 5 is a call flow diagram showing assigning rates by a base station based on requests from a mobile station.

FIG. 6 is a flow diagram showing an example of a routine employed by the base station of FIG. 4 in assigning rates optimally to mobile stations.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

A communication system, and in particular, an apparatus and method for controlling resources, such as rate and power, and reducing signal interference in the system, is described in detail herein. In the following description, numerous specific details are provided to give a thorough understanding of the invention. One skilled in the relevant art,

however, will readily recognize that the invention can be practiced without these specific details, or with alternative elements or steps. In other instances, well-known structures and methods are not shown in detail to avoid obscuring the invention.

5 FIG. 1 illustrates an exemplary cellular subscriber communication system 100, which uses multiple access techniques such as CDMA for communicating between users of user stations (*e.g.*, mobile telephones) and cell-sites or base stations. In FIG. 1, a mobile user station 102 communicates with a base station controller 104 by means of one or more base stations 106a,
10 106b, etc. Similarly, a fixed user station 108 communicates with the base station controller 104, but by means of only one or more predetermined and proximate base stations, such as the base stations 106a and 106b.

 The base station controller 104 is coupled to and typically includes interface and processing circuitry for providing system control to the base
15 stations 106a and 106b. The base station controller 104 may also be coupled to and communicate with other base stations, and possibly even other base station controllers. The base station controller 104 is coupled to a mobile switching center 110, which in turn is coupled to a home location register 112. During registration of each user station at the beginning of each call, the
20 base station controller 104 and the mobile switching center 110 compare registration signals received from the user stations to data contained in the home location register 112, as is known in the art. Soft handoffs may occur between the base station controller 104 and other base controllers, and even between the mobile switching center 110 and other mobile switching centers,
25 as is known by those skilled in the art.

 When the system 100 processes voice or data traffic calls, the base station controller 104 establishes, maintains and terminates the wireless link with the mobile station 102 and the fixed station 108, while the mobile switching center 110 establishes, maintains and terminates communications
30 with a public switched telephone network (PSTN). While the discussion below focuses on signals transmitted between the base station 106a and the mobile station 102, those skilled in the art will recognize that the discussion

equally applies to other base stations, and to the fixed station 108. The terms "cell" and "base station" are generally used interchangeably herein.

Referring to FIG. 2, the mobile station 10 includes an antenna 202 that transmits signals to, and receives signals from the base station 106a. A
5 duplexer 203 provides a forward link channel or signal from the base station 106a to a mobile receiver system 204. The receiver system 204 down-converts, demodulates and decodes the received signal. The receiver system 204 then provides a predetermined parameter or set of parameters to a quality measurement circuit 206. Examples of parameters might include
10 measured signal to noise ratio (SNR), measured received power, or decoder parameters such as symbol error rate, Yamamoto metric, or parity bit check indication. Additional details regarding operation of the mobile station 102 (and the base station 106a) are found, for example, in U.S. Patent No. 5,751,725, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING THE
15 RATE OF RECEIVED DATA IN A VARIABLE RATE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM," assigned to the assignee of the present invention, and incorporated by reference herein.

The quality measurement circuit 206 receives the parameters from the receiver system 204 and determines a quality measurement signal or power
20 level of the received signal. The quality measurement circuit 206 can generate energy per bit (E_b) or energy per symbol (E_s) measurements from portions or windows of each frame. Preferably, the energy per bit or energy per symbol measurements are normalized (e.g., E_b/N_0), or normalized and include interference factors (e.g., E_b/N_0), as is known in the art. Based on
25 these measurements, the quality measurement circuit 206 produces a power level signal.

A power control processor 208 receives the power level signal from the quality measurement circuit 206, compares the signal to a threshold and produces a power control message based on the comparison. Each power
30 control message can indicate a change in power for the forward link signal. Alternatively, power control processor 208 produces power control messages representing the absolute power of the received forward link signal, as is known in the art. The power control processor 208 produces preferably

several (e.g., sixteen) power control messages in response to several power level signals per frame. While the quality measurement circuit 206 and power control processor 208 are generally described herein as separate components, such components can be monolithically integrated, or the
5 operations performed by such components can be performed by a single microprocessor.

A mobile transmission system 210 encodes, modulates, amplifies and up converts the power control messages, via the duplexer 203 and the antenna 202. In the illustrated embodiment, the mobile transmission
10 system 210 provides the power control message in a predetermined location of an outgoing reverse link frame.

The mobile transmission system 210 also receives reverse link traffic data, such as voice or general computer data, from the user of the mobile station. The mobile transmission system 210 requests a particular service
15 (including power/rate) from the base station 106a based on the traffic data to be transmitted. In particular, the mobile transmission system 210 requests bandwidth allocation appropriate for the particular service. As explained more fully below, the base station 106a then schedules or allocates bandwidth (power/rate) resources based on the request from the mobile
20 station 102 and other users to optimize such resource allocation.

The base station 106a includes a receiving antenna 230 that receives the reverse link frames from the mobile station 102. A receiver system 232 of the base station 106a down converts, amplifies, demodulates and decodes the reverse link traffic. A backhaul transceiver 233 receives and forwards to
25 the base station controller 104 reverse link traffic. The receiver system 232 also separates the power control messages from each reverse link traffic frame and provides the power control messages to a power control processor 234.

The power control processor 234 monitors the power control messages
30 and produces a forward link transmitter power signal to a forward link transmitter system 236. The forward link transmitter system 236, in response thereto, either increases, maintains, or decreases the power of the forward link signal. The forward link signal is then transmitted via a

transmitting antenna 238. Additionally, the power control processor 234 analyzes the quality of the reverse link signal from the mobile station 102, and provides appropriate feedback control messages to the forward link transmitter system 236. The forward link transmitter system 236, in
5 response thereto, transmits the feedback control messages via the transmitting antenna 238 over the forward link channel to the mobile station 102. The transmitter system 236 also receives forward link traffic data from the base station controller 104 via the backhaul transceiver 233. The forward link transmitter system 236 encodes, modulates and transmits, via
10 the antenna 238, the forward link traffic data.

Unless described otherwise herein, the construction and operation of the various blocks and elements shown in FIGS. 1, 2 and the other figures are of conventional design and operation. Thus, such blocks or elements need not be described in further detail, because they will be understood by
15 those skilled in the relevant art. Any additional description is omitted for brevity and to avoid obscuring the detailed description of the invention. Any modifications necessary to the blocks of the communication system 100 of FIG. 1, FIG. 2, or other systems can be readily made by one skilled in the relevant art based on the detailed description provided herein.

20 The closed-loop power control system for mobile stations, including the mobile station 102, and base station 106a dynamically adjusts the transmit power for each user based on the user's propagation conditions to yield the same frame error rate (FER) for each user for voice services (*e.g.*, a 1% FER). As noted above, many users, however, may request transmission
25 for data services, in lieu of voice services, such as facsimile, e-mail and general computer data, all of which are insensitive to delay, but require a lower FER (or lower bit error rate (BER)). A user may even require video services, which not only require a lower FER, but are sensitive to delay. More importantly, video requires a higher transmission rate over voice. As
30 described more fully herein, the base station 106a dynamically assigns transmission rates based on requests from each user.

Speech services need not necessarily have a high bit rate, but typically must have a continuous bit stream. In contrast, general computer data and

e-mail services require higher bit rates, but may readily employ bursts or packets of data. To accommodate bursts at high bit rates, the base station 106a must schedule transmissions so that the total interference with all users of that base station are not excessive. Such scheduling and control is possible
5 because these data services are delay tolerant and thus their transmissions can be scheduled. For CDMA systems, such as the system 100, considerable performance gains are obtained by scheduling data transmissions concurrently with or around voice transmissions. The base station 106a can control the transmission rate of each burst or each packet for optimization.
10 The transmission rate of each burst or packet is limited by the amount of interference the transmission will cause to both the base station's own cell and to the immediately neighboring cells (*e.g.*, to the base station 106a, and its neighboring base station 106b).

The base station 106a begins a resource allocation routine by initially
15 distinguishing differing services. Services are distinguished based on, for example, quality of service (QoS) requirements such as minimum tolerable bit-error rate (BER), FER, or signal-to-interference ratio (SIR). The base station 106a also characterizes services based on power and rate requirements, such as maximum power and/or minimum bit-rate
20 constraints. For example, if the mobile station 102 requests services for transmitting short data messages, the mobile station may have very tight power limits due to small battery size, but very loose delay constraints (*i.e.*, low bit-rate requirements). On the other hand, if the mobile 102 requests voice services, it may have strict rate requirements compared to power or
25 bit-error rates, vis-à-vis data services. If the mobile station 102 requests video services, it may require high bit rates and low error rates and be intolerant to delays.

As noted above, the transmit power for the mobile station 102 is controllable, and the transmission rate may likewise be controllable. Under
30 the CDMA system 100 of FIG. 2, the interference seen by the mobile station 102 is a function of the transmit powers of interfering users for the base station 106a (and other base stations). The interference level, however, also depends on all other users' bit-rates. A smaller bit rate requirement implies

lower transmit power to obtain the same quality. Thus, the problem of achieving each user's QoS requirement is directly related to the powers and the bit rates for all users. Indeed, the bandwidth, power and rate resources are all directly linked. Therefore, to achieve desired performance for all users, the base station 106a must manage the transmit power on bit-rate assignments for its users.

Mathematically, the optimum rate that the base station 106a should assign to each of its mobile stations is determined by independently solving the following optimization function:

$$\max_R \sum_{i=1}^N R_i, \quad (1)$$

subject to:

$$(E_b/N_0)_i = \gamma_i, \quad i=1, \dots, N \quad (2)$$

$$R_{\min_i} \leq R_i \leq R_{\max_i}, \quad i=1, \dots, N \quad (3)$$

$$P_i \leq P_{\max_i}, \quad i=1, \dots, N \quad (4)$$

where N is the number of mobile stations controlled by the base station 106a and γ_i is the target E_b/N_0 for the i^{th} mobile station (e.g., 5 dB for voice and 5-12 dB for data, depending upon data rate). (The base station 106a maps E_b/N_0 directly to a mobile station's QoS, e.g., BER.) Under equation (1), R is a vector consisting of all component transmission rates R_i ($R=[R_1, R_2, \dots, R_N]$). The base station 106a under (1) picks the set of rates $\{R_i\}$ so as to maximize the sum of R_i 's subject to the conditions under equations (2) through (4), for all users N in the cell. Under equation (2), E_b/N_0 corresponds to the energy-per-bit to total interference density ratio. Under (3), R_i is the rate for the i^{th} mobile station, which lies between the minimum and maximum rates R_{\min_i} and R_{\max_i} , respectively, in the vector R . Under equation (4), P_i corresponds to the transmit power by the i^{th} mobile station.

In a more general setting, a weighted sum of the rates, $\max_R \sum_{i=1}^N R_i$, can be maximized. In this way, certain mobile stations (the ones with larger $\max_R \sum_{i=1}^N R_i$) can be treated more favorably in the sense that they will be assigned higher rates. The coefficients $\max_R \sum_{i=1}^N R_i$ can then be used by the base station as a mechanism to achieve Quality of Service (QoS).

After finding the optimal rate assignment for a cell, a new set of interferences from one cell to another results, which is used in the next iteration round. Referring to FIG. 3, the base station 106a is shown as being located in cell 1, and compensates for interference caused by the base station 106b in cell 2. Similarly, the base station 106b compensates for distortion created by the base station 106a. FIG. 3 corresponds to the special case where only two cells interact. In FIG. 3, I_{ij} is the interference caused by cell j to cell i .

The *individual* cell optimization problem (e.g., just for the base station 106a) can be approximated by the following linear programming problem:

$$\max_P \sum_{i=1}^N h_i P_i, \quad (5)$$

subject to:

$$A_{\min} P \geq (I_{oc} + N_0) W \mathbf{1} \quad (6)$$

$$A_{\max} P \leq (I_{oc} + N_0) W \mathbf{1} \quad (7)$$

$$P_i \leq P_{\max}, \quad i=1, \dots, N, \quad (8)$$

and where

$\mathbf{1}$ is the vector of all ones of size N ,

N is the number of mobile stations in the cell,

I_{oc} is the interference that the base station receives from other cells,

W is the bandwidth of the system (e.g., 1.25 MHz),

N_0 is the Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN) density (e.g., 10^{-6}),

h_i is the channel gain (path loss) from the i^{th} mobile station to the base station (e.g. 0.25), and

A_{\min} and A_{\max} are $N \times N$ matrices defined by:

$$A_{\min} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{Wh_1}{R_{\min,1} \gamma_1} & -h_2 & \dots & -h_N \\ -h_1 & \frac{Wh_2}{R_{\min,2} \gamma_2} & \dots & -h_N \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -h_1 & -h_2 & \dots & \frac{Wh_N}{R_{\min,N} \gamma_N} \end{bmatrix} \quad (9)$$

$$A_{\max} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{Wh_1}{R_{\max,1}\gamma_1} & -h_2 & \dots & -h_N \\ -h_1 & \frac{Wh_2}{R_{\max,2}\gamma_2} & \dots & -h_N \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -h_1 & -h_2 & \dots & \frac{Wh_N}{R_{\max,N}\gamma_N} \end{bmatrix} \quad (10)$$

The inventors have discovered that performing the optimal rate assignment as explained above in each cell leads to a stable system in the sense that the interference generated by each cell converges to a fixed value. Mathematically, under the convergence theorem, initially, let $I \in \Sigma^{N \times N}$ and $f: \Sigma^{N \times N} \rightarrow \Sigma^{N \times N}$ be a mapping that satisfies the following conditions for all $I \geq 0$:

- *Positivity*: $f(I) > 0$;
- *Monotonicity*: If $I > I_-$, then $f(I) \geq f(I_-)$;
- *Scalability*: For all $\alpha > 1$, $f(\alpha I) > \alpha f(I)$.

where all the matrix inequalities are interpreted as component-by-component inequalities. A mapping f that satisfies above three conditions has been called *standard*. See, R.A. Yates, "A Framework for Uplink Power Control in Cellular Radio Systems," Journal on Selected Areas in Communications 13(7):1341-1347, Sept. 1995.

Then, for a *standard* mapping f with a , the iteration:

$$I^{(n+1)} = f(I^{(n)}) \quad (11)$$

converges to a unique fixed point of the mapping f for all initial conditions $I(0)$, assuming that the mapping f has a fixed point.

Now, applying the convergence theorem and equations (5) through (8) of individual cell optimization to a multicell environment, it can be shown that the multicell environment likewise converges to a unique fixed point. Initially, let the matrix $I = [I_{ij}]$ be the interference matrix such that I_{ij} is the interference caused by cell j to cell i . Note that by definition, I_{ii} is zero. Therefore, the total interference to cell i from the other cells, I_{oci} , can be written as:

$$I_{oci} = \sum_j I_{ij} \quad (12)$$

Also, let $f_j : IR^{N \times N} \longrightarrow IR^N$ to be a mapping such that, given the interference matrix I , generates the interference from cell j to other cells, I_j , by solving the following optimization problem:

$$\max_{P_j} \sum_{k=1}^N h_{jk} P_{jk} , \quad (13)$$

5 subject to:

$$A_{\min_j} P_j \geq (I_{ocj} + N_0) W1 \quad (14)$$

$$A_{\max_j} P_j \leq (I_{ocj} + N_0) W1 \quad (15)$$

$$P_{jk} \geq 0 , k=1, \dots, N \quad (16)$$

10 Again, h_{jk} is the channel gain from a mobile station k to a base station j . For example, given $P_j = \{P_{j1}, \dots, P_{jN}\}$, the interference from cell j to cell i , I_{ij} , is $\sum_{k=1}^N P_{jk} h_{ik}$.

Referring to FIG. 4, the two cell case of FIG. 3 is expanded to k number of cells. Each cell 1 through k (including base stations 106a and 106b) determine an interference value of other cells for that cell (e.g., $I_{oc,1}$ for cell 1 (base station 106a)). In FIG. 4, an interference vector I_j represents interference generated by cell j to other cells (where j equals $1, 2, \dots, k$). The k^{th} entry of this vector is the interference generated by cell j to cell k .

The cells then generate rates and corresponding interference values $I(n+1)$, which are then iteratively fed back to each cell as interference values $I(n)$. At each iteration the other cell interference from the previous step is used to compute the new set of reverse link rates at each cell. This new set of rates creates the other cell interference for the next iteration. The cells synchronously adjust under standard synchronism (e.g., frame synchronism under known CDMA techniques). As each cell optimizes its rates and compensates for interference of other cells (based on rates they set), the optimization of each cell converges to a stable condition, rather than escalating to an unstable condition, as explained herein. Each cell need not exchange information with the other cells and each cell need not optimize itself synchronously with other cells, for the system 100 to converge to a stable, optimal condition. Each base station forms its optimization

independently, without any knowledge of the powers and rates assigned by other base stations to their users.

It can be shown that, under the above equations (including equation (13)), the mapping f is standard (i.e., satisfies the positivity, monotonicity and scalability conditions). The positivity condition is proven by contradiction. Let vector P_j be a solution to (13) for some $I \geq 0$, where by definition of f , we have $P_j \geq 0$. Without loss of generality, suppose p_j is zero. Equation (14) in the set of constraints for equation (13) reduces to:

$$-h_{j2}P_{j2} - \dots - h_{jN}P_{jN} \geq (I_{ocj} + N_0)W. \quad (17)$$

The left-hand side of equation (17) is non-positive, while the right-hand side is strictly positive (since $N_0 > 0$). Therefore, (17) is impossible and by contradiction, $p_{jk} > 0$, $k = 1, \dots, N$. This implies that $I_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^N P_{jk}h_{ki}$ is strictly positive for all i .

The monotonicity condition is proven by first letting p^* and p^{**} be solutions to (13) with $I_{ocj} = I_{oc}$ and $I_{ocj} = I'_{oc}$, respectively. It can be easily seen that:

$$P^{**} = P^* \frac{I'_{oc} + N_0}{I_{oc} + N_0} \quad (18)$$

If $I' > I$, then $I'_{oc} > I_{oc}$, and from equation (18) it follows that $P^{**} > P^*$. By applying this argument to all cells, we get $f(I'') > f(I)$ which proves the monotonicity condition.

The scalability condition is proven by first letting p_l and p_{al} be solutions to (13) with $I_{ocj} = I_{oc}$ and $I_{ocj} = \alpha I_{oc}$, respectively. Again, it can be shown that:

$$P_{al} = P_l \frac{\alpha I_{oc} + N_0}{I_{oc} + N_0} < \alpha P_l \quad (19)$$

Equation (19) results from the assumption that $\alpha > 1$. From equation (19), and by repeating the same argument for all the cells, then $f(\alpha I) < \alpha f(I)$.

Notice that (13) does not include the maximum transmit power constraint which is present equation in (5). To extend the proof of convergence to the case that this constraint is included, it is first noted that if

the mapping f is standard, then the following iteration converges to a unique fixed point for all initial conditions.

$$\hat{I}^{(n+1)} = \min \{ \hat{I}^{(n)} I_{\max} \} \quad (20)$$

Using the above result, and noting that I_{\max} constraint directly maps to the
5 maximum transmit power constraint, the distributed rate assignment routine converges for all the initial conditions.

Referring to the call flow diagram of FIG. 5, an example of a rate assignment performed by a base station is shown. The mobile station 102 provides a bandwidth request message 502 to the base station 106a, whereby
10 the mobile station requests a specified bandwidth in which to transmit certain traffic (e.g., voice or general computer data). In response, the base station 106a performs scheduling under the above-described technique, and which is described more fully below with respect to FIG. 6. After performing such scheduling, the base station 106a sends a reverse link rate assignment
15 message 504 to the mobile station 102 directing the mobile station to transmit its data at the assigned rate. In response thereto, the mobile station transmits the data at the assigned rate (shown as block 506).

With data capable of being sent in bursts or packets, the base station 106a may send multiple reverse link rate assignment messages 504 to the
20 mobile station 102. Thus, in response to only the single bandwidth request message 502, the base station 106a can perform several iterations of the scheduling technique and generate several reverse link rate assignment messages 504 in response thereto. In response to each reverse link rate assignment message 504, the mobile station transmits one or more packets
25 based on the most recently received reverse link rate assignment message. Under the IS-95-B standard, no 1-to-1 mapping between bandwidth request messages 502 and reverse link rate assignment messages 504 exists. Indeed, the base station 106a may send no assignment message at all under this standard.

30 Referring to FIG. 6, the scheduling routine applying the above techniques is shown in greater detail as a general routine 600. The routine 600, in the following example, is performed by the base station 106a as it assigns rates to mobile stations, including the mobile station 102. Those

skilled in the relevant art can create source code based on the flow chart of FIG. 6 and the detailed description provided herein.

The routine 600 begins in step 602, where the base station 106a receives rate request or bandwidth request messages from the mobile stations. In step 604, the base station 106a solves the linear programming problem (5) above to determine a value for the vector P^* , based on the criteria (2) through (4). The base station employs, *e.g.*, a conventional simplex method for solving such problem.

In step 606, the base station 106a finds a rate vector R^* that corresponds to the power vector P^* , and that also satisfies the E_b/N_0 requirements through the following relationship:

$$R_i = \frac{Wh_i P_i}{\left(\sum_{j \neq i} h_j P_j + N_0 W \right) \gamma_i} \quad i=1, \dots, N \quad (21)$$

The $N \times N$ matrices (9) and (10) above include the value γ_i which corresponds to the E_b/I_0 value for the i^{th} mobile station. To account for maximum rise over thermal issues, the base station 106a may also include the following criteria in its optimization under (5):

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N P_i h_{ij} + I_{oc} + N_0 W}{N_0 W} \leq \text{maximum rise over thermal} \quad (22)$$

In step 608, the base station 106a quantizes the rates R^* to obtain a quantized vector R_Q such that each entry of the vector R_Q belongs to a discrete allowable set of rates. As noted above, the system 100 includes a discrete set of rates, ranging from a low rate for voice service to high rates for data services (*e.g.*, video). Therefore, in step 608, the base station 106a identifies rates in the quantized set of rates that most closely correspond to the rates in the vector R^* . If the mobile station 102 requires a minimum rate, then the base station 106a identifies the next higher quantized rate, even if a quantized rate exists that is closer to, but lower than, the computed rate.

In step 610, the base station 106a computes a quantized power vector P_Q corresponding to the quantized rate vector R_Q using the following relationship:

$$AP_Q = N_0 W 1 \quad (23)$$

5 where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{Wh_1}{R_Q \gamma_1} & -h_2 & \cdots & -h_N \\ -h_1 & \frac{Wh_2}{R_Q \gamma_2} & \cdots & -h_N \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -h_1 & -h_2 & \cdots & \frac{Wh_N}{R_Q \gamma_N} \end{bmatrix} \quad (24)$$

In step 612, the base station 106a determines whether the computed quantized power and rate vectors P_Q and R_Q provide a feasible solution. If so, then in step 614, the base station 106a sends the schedule of rates to the mobile stations as the quantized rate vector R_Q . For example, the base station 106a transmits the reverse link rate assignment 504 to the mobile station 102, which identifies the particular rate at which the mobile station 102 is to transmit.

If this solution is not feasible under step 612, then the base station 106a in step 616 sorts the vectors in the quantized power vector P_Q in descending order. In step 618, the base station 106a finds an index k in the quantized power vector P_Q such that k is the lowest index in the vector P_Q where the rate corresponding to the index k is greater than the minimum rate R_{min} , i.e.:

$$R_Q[k] > R_{min} \quad (25)$$

20

In step 620, the base station 106a determines whether such an index k exists. If so, then in step 622, the base station 106a reduces the rate for the next k to the next lower allowable rate (i.e., reduces the rate $R_Q[k] =$ next lower quantized rate). Thereafter, the routine 600 loops back to step 610. If no such index k exists in step 620, the base station 106a sends the previously computed schedule of quantized rates R_Q to the mobile stations.

25

As can be seen under the optimization problem (13) above, if the mobile station 102 is close to the base station 106a, its channel gain is large,

and therefore the weight of the power value P for this mobile station is high. Conversely, if the mobile station 102 is far from the base station 106a in the cell, then its channel gain is small and the weight of its value P is low. Therefore, the optimization routine automatically assigns higher powers P to the mobile stations that are closer to the base station as the base station optimizes (13). Since rate is proportional to power under equation (21), the closer the mobile station is to the base station, the higher power P it has, and therefore, it receives a higher rate R .

As the base station 106a optimizes the rates (and thus powers) for its mobile stations, the base station 106b, and other base stations, similarly optimize rates for their mobile stations. During such optimizations, as shown above, each base station takes into consideration interference generated by neighboring base stations. Under the above technique, while each base station performs rate assignment optimally, independently of other base stations, the base stations continuously modify their reverse link rate assignments based on other-cell-interference and rates requests from the mobile stations. Under the invention, the base stations converge to a stable condition with uncoordinated optimizations (*i.e.*, without a central processing system). While the system 100 is generally described above as performing such optimization synchronously between cells, such optimization may be performed asynchronously.

Under the illustrated embodiment of the invention, the distributed reverse link rate assignment technique optimally assigns reverse link rates within each cell, while also maintaining interference to other cells at a minimum level. The optimization technique maximizes the total throughput in each cell (maximizing rates) subject to a set of constraints, including: mobile station's maximum transmit power, mobile station's requested rate, a discrete set of possible rates, maximum rise-over-thermal interference at the base station, and a minimum required received error per bit normalized for noise (E_b/N_0).

Although specific embodiments of, and examples for, the invention are described herein for illustrative purposes, various equivalent modifications can be made without departing from the scope of the

invention, as will be recognized by those skilled in the relevant art. For example, embodiments are generally shown and described as being implemented in software and performed by a processor. Such software can be stored on any suitable computer-readable medium, such as micro code
5 stored in a semiconductor chip, as computer-readable disk, or downloaded and stored from a server. The invention could equally be implemented in hardware, such as by a DSP or ASIC.

The teachings provided herein of the invention can be applied to other communication systems, not necessarily the exemplary
10 communication system described above. For example, while the present invention has been generally described above as being employed in the CDMA communication system 100, the present invention is equally applicable to other digital or analog cellular communication systems. While the base station 106a is described above as optimizing and allocating
15 resources, such techniques can be applied to a user station. The invention can also be modified to employ aspects of the systems, circuits and concepts of the various patents, articles and standards described above, all of which are incorporated by reference.

These and other changes can be made to the invention in light of the
20 above detailed description. In general, in the following claims, the terms used should not be construed to limit the invention to the specific embodiments disclosed in the specification and the claims. Accordingly, the invention is not limited by the disclosure, but instead its scope is to be determined entirely by the following claims.

25 What is claimed is:

CLAIMS

1. In a communication system having at least first and second
 2 base stations exchanging communication signals with at least first and
 4 communication system, comprising:

at each of the first and second user stations, transmitting a request for
 6 an allocation of bandwidth for transmitting a type of data by the user station;

at the first and second base stations, receiving the requests from the
 8 first and second user stations, respectively, and other user stations, and
 scheduling requests received from the first, second and other user stations,
 10 wherein the first base station optimizes the scheduling independently of the
 scheduling of the second base station and minimizes interference with the
 12 second base station, while the second base station optimizes the scheduling
 independently of the scheduling of the first base station and minimizes
 14 interference with the first base station;

at the first and second base stations, transmitting first and second
 16 assignment signals to the first and second user stations, respectively,
 wherein each assignment signal specifies a transmission rate; and

18 at the first and second user stations, transmitting the type of data at a
 rate specified in the first and second assignment signals, respectively.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein scheduling requests includes
 2 optimizing transmission powers for N number of user stations for the first
 base station by optimizing:

$$4 \quad \max_P \sum_{i=1}^N h_i P_i,$$

subject to:

$$6 \quad A_{\min} P \geq (I_{oc} + N_0) \mathbf{1}$$

$$A_{\max} P \leq (I_{oc} + N_0) \mathbf{1}$$

$$8 \quad P_i \leq P_{\max,i}, \quad i=1, \dots, N,$$

and where $\mathbf{1}$ is a vector of all ones of size N , $I_{oc}W$ is the interference that the
 10 base station receives from other base stations, W is a bandwidth of the
 communication system, N_0 is an Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN)

- 12 density, h_i is a channel gain from an i^{th} user station to the base station, A_{\min}
and A_{\max} are $N \times N$ matrices defined by:

$$14 \quad A_{\min} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{Wh_1}{R_{\min 1} \gamma_1} & -h_2 & \dots & -h_N \\ -h_1 & \frac{Wh_2}{R_{\min 2} \gamma_2} & \dots & -h_N \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -h_1 & -h_2 & \dots & \frac{Wh_N}{R_{\min N} \gamma_N} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$16 \quad A_{\max} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{Wh_1}{R_{\max 1} \gamma_1} & -h_2 & \dots & -h_N \\ -h_1 & \frac{Wh_2}{R_{\max 2} \gamma_2} & \dots & -h_N \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -h_1 & -h_2 & \dots & \frac{Wh_N}{R_{\max N} \gamma_N} \end{bmatrix}$$

- where $(E_b / I_0)_i = \gamma_i$, $i=1, \dots, N$, $R_{\min_i} \leq R_i \leq R_{\max_i}$, $i=1, \dots, N$, and $P_i \leq P_{\max_i}$,
18 $i=1, \dots, N$.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein scheduling requests includes:
 - 2 optimizing power values based on the received bandwidth requests and interference from adjacent base stations; and
 - 4 identifying rates corresponding to the optimized power values;
- and wherein transmitting first and second assignment signals
 - 6 includes transmitting a first identified rate for transmitting a first group of the data packets; and wherein the method further comprises:
 - 8 optimizing new power values based on newly received bandwidth requests and new interference from adjacent base stations;
 - 10 identifying new rates corresponding to the optimized new power values; and
 - 12 transmitting a second identified rate for transmitting a second group of the data packets.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein scheduling requests includes:
2 optimizing power values based on the received bandwidth requests
and interference from adjacent base stations; and
4 identifying rates corresponding to the optimized power values;
and wherein transmitting first and second assignment signals
6 includes transmitting first and second identified rates.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein scheduling requests includes
2 synchronously optimizing power values based on the received bandwidth
requests and interference from adjacent base stations.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein scheduling requests includes
2 optimizing power values based on the received bandwidth requests, the user
stations' maximum transmit power, a discrete set of transmission rates,
4 maximum rise-over-thermal interference, and minimum required error
rate.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein scheduling requests includes
2 assigning higher transmission rates for user stations closer to a center of a
cell in which the first base station is located.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein scheduling requests includes, at
2 each base station:

optimizing power values based on the received requests and
4 interference from adjacent base stations;

identifying assignment signals corresponding to the optimized power
6 values; and

repeating the optimizing and identifying, and wherein the repeating
8 converges the optimizing to stable values among the base stations.

9. In a communication system having at least first and second
2 base stations exchanging communication signals with at least first and
second user stations, respectively, a method comprising:
4 receiving transmission requests from the first and second user
stations and other user stations, and scheduling requests received from the
6 first, second and other user stations, wherein the first base station optimizes
the scheduling independently of the scheduling of the second base station
8 and minimizes interference with the second base station, while the second
base station optimizes the scheduling independently of the scheduling of the
10 first base station and minimizes interference with the first base station; and
transmitting first and second assignment signals to the first and
12 second user stations, respectively, wherein the first and second assignment
signals specify at least one transmission criteria at which the first and second
14 user stations are to transmit data, respectively.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein receiving transmission
2 requests includes receiving a transmission rate request, and wherein
scheduling requests includes:
4 optimizing power values based on the received rate requests and
interference from adjacent base stations; and
6 identifying rates corresponding to the optimized power values;
and wherein transmitting first and second assignment signals
8 includes transmitting first and second identified rates.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein scheduling requests includes
2 synchronously optimizing power values based on the received rate requests
and interference from adjacent base stations.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein receiving transmission
 2 requests includes receiving a transmission rate request, and wherein
 scheduling requests includes optimizing power values based on the received
 4 rate requests, the user stations' maximum transmit power, a discrete set of
 transmission rates, maximum rise-over-thermal interference, and
 6 minimum required error rate.

13. The method of claim 9 wherein receiving transmission
 2 requests includes receiving a transmission rate request, and wherein
 scheduling requests includes assigning higher transmission rates for user
 4 stations closer to a center of a cell in which the first base station is located.

14. The method of claim 9 wherein scheduling requests includes, at
 2 each base station:

optimizing power values based on the received requests and
 4 interference from adjacent base stations;

identifying assignment signals corresponding to the optimized power
 6 values; and

repeating the optimizing and identifying, and wherein the repeating
 8 converges the optimizing to stable values among the base stations.

15. The method of claim 9 wherein scheduling requests includes
 2 optimizing transmission powers for N number of user stations for the first
 base station by optimizing:

$$4 \quad \max_P \sum_{i=1}^N h_i P_i,$$

subject to:

$$6 \quad A_{\min} P \geq (I_{oc} + N_0) W 1$$

$$A_{\max} P \leq (I_{oc} + N_0) W 1$$

$$8 \quad P_i \leq P_{\max}, \quad i=1, \dots, N,$$

and where 1 is a vector of all ones of size N, $I_{oc} W$ is the interference that the
 10 base station receives from other base stations, W is a bandwidth of the
 communication system, N_0 is an Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN)
 12 value, h_i is a channel gain from an i^{th} user station to the base station, A_{\min} and

A_{max} are $N \times N$ matrices defined by:

$$14 \quad A_{min} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{Wh_1}{R_{min1}\gamma_1} & -h_2 & \dots & -h_N \\ -h_1 & \frac{Wh_2}{R_{min2}\gamma_2} & \dots & -h_N \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -h_1 & -h_2 & \dots & \frac{Wh_N}{R_{minN}\gamma_N} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$16 \quad A_{max} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{Wh_1}{R_{max1}\gamma_1} & -h_2 & \dots & -h_N \\ -h_1 & \frac{Wh_2}{R_{max2}\gamma_2} & \dots & -h_N \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -h_1 & -h_2 & \dots & \frac{Wh_N}{R_{maxN}\gamma_N} \end{bmatrix}$$

18 where $(E_b/\rho_0)_i = \gamma_i$, $i=1, \dots, N$, $R_{min_i} \leq R_i \leq R_{max_i}$, $i=1, \dots, N$, and $P_i \leq P_{max_i}$, $i=1, \dots, N$.

16. The method of claim 9 wherein receiving transmission
 2 requests includes receiving a transmission rate request for data packets, and
 wherein scheduling requests includes:
 4 optimizing power values based on the received rate requests and
 interference from adjacent base stations; and
 6 identifying rates corresponding to the optimized power values;
 and wherein transmitting first and second assignment signals
 8 includes transmitting a first identified rate for transmitting a first group of
 the data packets; and wherein the method further comprises:
 10 optimizing new power values based on newly received rate requests
 and new interference from adjacent base stations;
 12 identifying new rates corresponding to the optimized new power
 values; and
 14 transmitting a second identified rate for transmitting a second group
 of the data packets.

17. In a communication system having k number of cells and N
 2 number of users, a method of scheduling resources comprising:
 receiving rate requests at each of the k number of cells;
 4 at each cell, optimizing:

$$\max_P \sum_{i=1}^N h_i P_i,$$

6 subject to:

$$A_{\min} P \geq (I_{oc} + N_0) W \mathbf{1}$$

8

$$A_{\max} P \leq (I_{oc} + N_0) W \mathbf{1}$$

$$P_i \leq P_{\max_i}, \quad i=1, \dots, N,$$

- 10 and where $\mathbf{1}$ is a vector of all ones of size N , $I_{oc} W$ is the interference that one
 cell receives from other cells, W is a bandwidth of the communication
 12 system, N_0 is an Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN) density, h_i is a
 channel gain (path loss) from an i^{th} user to the one cell, A_{\min} and A_{\max} are $N \times$
 14 N matrices defined by:

$$A_{\min} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{Wh_1}{R_{\min 1} \gamma_1} & -h_2 & \dots & -h_N \\ -h_1 & \frac{Wh_2}{R_{\min 2} \gamma_2} & \dots & -h_N \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -h_1 & -h_2 & \dots & \frac{Wh_N}{R_{\min N} \gamma_N} \end{bmatrix},$$

16

$$A_{\max} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{Wh_1}{R_{\max 1} \gamma_1} & -h_2 & \dots & -h_N \\ -h_1 & \frac{Wh_2}{R_{\max 2} \gamma_2} & \dots & -h_N \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -h_1 & -h_2 & \dots & \frac{Wh_N}{R_{\max N} \gamma_N} \end{bmatrix}$$

- 18 where $(E_b / I_0)_i = \gamma_i$, $i=1, \dots, N$, $R_{\min_i} \leq R_i \leq R_{\max_i}$, $i=1, \dots, N$, and $P_i \leq P_{\max_i}$,
 $i=1, \dots, N$; and

- 20 assigning rates to each user based on the optimization.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein optimizing includes

- 2 synchronously optimizing power values based on the received rate requests
and interference from adjacent cells.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein optimizing includes
2 optimizing power values based on a discrete set of transmission rates, and
maximum rise-over-thermal interference.

20. The method of claim 17, further comprising, at each cell:
2 repeating the receiving, optimizing and assigning, and wherein the
repeating converges the optimizing to stable values among the k number of
4 cells.

21. In a communication system having at least first and second
2 base stations exchanging communication signals with at least first and
second user stations, respectively, an apparatus comprising:
4 means for receiving transmission requests from the first and second
user stations and other user stations, and for scheduling requests received
6 from the first, second and other user stations, wherein a first means for
scheduling optimizes the scheduling independently of the scheduling of a
8 second means for scheduling and minimizes interference with the second
base station, while the second means for scheduling optimizes the
10 scheduling independently of the scheduling of the first means for
scheduling and minimizes interference with the first base station; and
12 means for transmitting first and second assignment signals to the first
and second user stations, respectively, wherein the first and second
14 assignment signals specify at least one transmission criteria at which the first
and second user stations are to transmit data, respectively.

22. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the means for receiving
2 transmission requests includes means for receiving a transmission rate
request, and wherein the means for scheduling requests includes:
4 means for optimizing power values based on the received rate
requests and interference from adjacent base stations; and
6 means for identifying rates corresponding to the optimized power

values;

- 8 and wherein the means for transmitting first and second assignment
signals includes transmitting first and second identified rates.

23. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the means for scheduling
2 requests includes means for synchronously optimizing power values based
on the received rate requests and interference from adjacent base stations.

24. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the means for receiving
2 transmission requests receives a transmission rate request, and wherein the
means for scheduling requests includes means for optimizing power values
4 based on the received rate requests, the user stations' maximum transmit
power, a discrete set of transmission rates, maximum rise-over-thermal
6 interference, and minimum required error rate.

25. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the means for receiving
2 transmission requests receives a transmission rate request, and wherein the
means for scheduling requests assigns higher transmission rates for user
4 stations closer to a center of a cell in which the first base station is located.

26. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the means for scheduling
2 requests includes, at each base station:

4 means for optimizing power values based on the received requests
and interference from adjacent base stations;

6 means for identifying assignment signals corresponding to the
optimized power values; and

8 means for repeating the optimizing and identifying, and wherein the
repeating converges the optimizing to stable values among the base stations.

27. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the means for scheduling requests includes means for optimizing transmission powers for N number of user stations for the first base station by optimizing:

$$\max_P \sum_{i=1}^N h_i P_i,$$

subject to:

$$A_{\min} P \geq (I_{oc} + N_0) W \mathbf{1}$$

$$A_{\max} P \leq (I_{oc} + N_0) W \mathbf{1}$$

$$P_i \leq P_{\max,i}, \quad i=1, \dots, N,$$

and where $\mathbf{1}$ is a vector of all ones of size N , $I_{oc}W$ is the interference that the base station receives from other base stations, W is a bandwidth of the communication system, N_0 is an Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN) value, h_i is a channel gain from an i^{th} user station to the base station, A_{\min} and A_{\max} are $N \times N$ matrices defined by:

$$A_{\min} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{Wh_1}{R_{\min 1} \gamma_1} & -h_2 & \dots & -h_N \\ -h_1 & \frac{Wh_2}{R_{\min 2} \gamma_2} & \dots & -h_N \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -h_1 & -h_2 & \dots & \frac{Wh_N}{R_{\min N} \gamma_N} \end{bmatrix},$$

$$A_{\max} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{Wh_1}{R_{\max 1} \gamma_1} & -h_2 & \dots & -h_N \\ -h_1 & \frac{Wh_2}{R_{\max 2} \gamma_2} & \dots & -h_N \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -h_1 & -h_2 & \dots & \frac{Wh_N}{R_{\max N} \gamma_N} \end{bmatrix}$$

where $(E_b / N_0)_i = \gamma_i$, $i=1, \dots, N$, $R_{\min,i} \leq R_i \leq R_{\max,i}$, $i=1, \dots, N$, and $P_i \leq P_{\max,i}$,

$i=1, \dots, N$.

28. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the means for
2 receiving transmission requests receives a transmission rate request for data
packets, and wherein the means for scheduling requests includes:
4 means for optimizing power values based on the received rate
requests and interference from adjacent base stations; and
6 means for identifying rates corresponding to the optimized
power values;
8 and wherein the means for transmitting first and second
assignment signals transmits a first identified rate for transmitting a first
10 group of the data packets; and wherein the means for scheduling requests
further includes:
12 optimizing new power values based on newly received rate
requests and new interference from adjacent base stations;
14 identifying new rates corresponding to the optimized new
power values; and
16 transmitting a second identified rate for transmitting a second
group of the data packets.

29. In a communication system having at least first and
2 second base stations exchanging communication signals with at least first
and second user stations, respectively, an apparatus comprising:
4 first and second receivers at the first and second base stations
that receive transmission requests from the first and second user stations, all
6 respectively, and from other user stations;
first and second processors, coupled to the first and second
8 receiver systems, that schedule requests received from the first and second
user stations, all respectively, and from other user stations, wherein the first
10 processor optimizes the scheduling independently of the scheduling of the
second base station and minimizes interference with the second base station,
12 while the second processor optimizes the scheduling independently of the
scheduling of the first base station and minimizes interference with the first
14 base station; and

first and second transmitters, coupled to the first and second
16 processors, that transmit first and second assignment signals to the first and
second user stations, all respectively, wherein the first and second
18 assignment signals specify at least one transmission criteria at which the first
and second user stations are to transmit data, respectively.

30. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the first and second
2 receivers receive transmission requests including a transmission rate
request, and wherein the first and second processors are programmed for:
4 optimizing power values based on the received rate requests
and interference from adjacent base stations; and
6 identifying rates corresponding to the optimized power values;
and wherein the first and second transmitters transmit first and
8 second identified rates.

31. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the first and second
2 processors synchronously optimize power values based on the received rate
requests and interference from adjacent base stations.

32. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the first and second
2 transmitters receive transmission rate requests, and wherein the first and
second processors optimize power values based on the received rate requests,
4 the user stations' maximum transmit power, a discrete set of transmission
rates, maximum rise-over-thermal interference, and minimum required
6 error rate.

33. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the first and second
2 transmitters receive transmission rate requests, and wherein the first and
second processors assign higher transmission rates for user stations closer to
4 a center of a cell in which the first and second base stations are located,
respectively.

34. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the first and second
 2 processors are each programmed for:
 optimizing power values based on the received requests and
 4 interference from adjacent base stations;
 identifying assignment signals corresponding to the optimized
 6 power values; and
 repeating the optimizing and identifying, and wherein the
 8 repeating converges the optimizing to stable values among the base stations.

35. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein each of the first and--
 2 second processors is programmed for optimizing transmission powers for N
 number of user stations by optimizing:

$$4 \quad \max_P \sum_{i=1}^N h_i P_i ,$$

subject to:

$$\begin{aligned} 6 \quad & A_{\min} P \geq (I_{oc} + N_o) W 1 \\ 8 \quad & A_{\max} P \leq (I_{oc} + N_o) W 1 \\ & P_i \leq P_{\max}, \quad i=1, \dots, N, \end{aligned}$$

- 10 and where 1 is a vector of all ones of size N, $I_{oc} W$ is the interference that the
 base station receives from other base stations, W is a bandwidth of the
 12 communication system, N_o is an Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN)
 value, h_i is a channel gain from an i^{th} user station to the base station, A_{\min} and
 14 A_{\max} are $N \times N$ matrices defined by:

$$A_{\min} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{Wh_1}{R_{\min 1} \gamma_1} & -h_2 & \dots & -h_N \\ -h_1 & \frac{Wh_2}{R_{\min 2} \gamma_2} & \dots & -h_N \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -h_1 & -h_2 & \dots & \frac{Wh_N}{R_{\min N} \gamma_N} \end{bmatrix} ,$$

$$A_{max} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{Wh_1}{R_{max1}\gamma_1} & -h_2 & \dots & -h_N \\ -h_1 & \frac{Wh_2}{R_{max2}\gamma_2} & \dots & -h_N \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -h_1 & -h_2 & \dots & \frac{Wh_N}{R_{maxN}\gamma_N} \end{bmatrix}$$

18 where $(E_b/\eta_0)_i = \gamma_i$, $i=1, \dots, N$, $R_{min,i} \leq R_i \leq R_{max,i}$, $i=1, \dots, N$, and $P_i \leq P_{max,i}$,
 $i=1, \dots, N$.

36. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the first and second-
 2 receivers receive transmission rate requests for data packets to be transmitted
 by the first user stations, and wherein the first processor is programmed for:
 4 optimizing power values based on the received rate requests and
 interference from adjacent base stations; and
 6 identifying rates corresponding to the optimized power values,
 including first identified rate for transmitting a first group of the data
 8 packets;
 optimizing new power values based on newly received rate requests
 10 and new interference from adjacent base stations;
 identifying new rates corresponding to the optimized new power
 12 values; and
 transmitting a second identified rate for transmitting a second group
 14 of the data packets.

37. A computer-readable medium having instructions stored
 2 thereon to cause computers in a communication system to perform a
 method, wherein the system includes at least first and second base stations
 4 exchanging communication signals with at least first and second user
 stations, respectively, the method comprising:
 6 receiving transmission requests from the first and second user
 stations and other user stations, and scheduling requests received from the
 8 first, second and other user stations, wherein the first base station optimizes
 the scheduling independently of the scheduling of the second base station

10 and minimizes interference with the second base station, while the second
base station optimizes the scheduling independently of the scheduling of the
12 first base station and minimizes interference with the first base station; and
transmitting first and second assignment signals to the first and
14 second user stations, respectively, wherein the first and second assignment
signals specify at least one transmission criteria at which the first and second
16 user stations are to transmit data, respectively.

38. The article of manufacture of claim 37 wherein receiving
2 transmission requests includes receiving a transmission rate request, and
wherein scheduling requests includes:
4 optimizing power values based on the received rate requests and
interference from adjacent base stations; and
6 identifying rates corresponding to the optimized power values;
and wherein transmitting first and second assignment signals
8 includes transmitting first and second identified rates.

39. The article of manufacture of claim 37 wherein scheduling
2 requests includes synchronously optimizing power values based on the
received rate requests and interference from adjacent base stations.

40. The article of manufacture of claim 37 wherein receiving
2 transmission requests includes receiving a transmission rate request, and
wherein scheduling requests includes optimizing power values based on the
4 received rate requests, the user stations' maximum transmit power, a
discrete set of transmission rates, maximum rise-over-thermal interference,
6 and minimum required error rate.

41. The article of manufacture of claim 37 wherein receiving
2 transmission requests includes receiving a transmission rate request, and
wherein scheduling requests includes assigning higher transmission rates
4 for user stations closer to a center of a cell in which the first base station is
located.

42. The article of manufacture of claim 37 wherein scheduling
 2 requests includes, at each base station:
 optimizing power values based on the received requests and
 4 interference from adjacent base stations;
 identifying assignment signals corresponding to the optimized power
 6 values; and
 repeating the optimizing and identifying, and wherein the repeating
 8 converges the optimizing to stable values among the base stations.

43. The article of manufacture of claim 37 wherein scheduling
 2 requests includes optimizing transmission powers for N number of user
 stations for the first base station by optimizing:

$$4 \quad \max_P \sum_{i=1}^N h_i P_i ,$$

subject to:

$$6 \quad A_{\min} P \geq (I_{oc} + N_0) W 1$$

$$A_{\max} P \leq (I_{oc} + N_0) W 1$$

$$8 \quad P_i \leq P_{\max}, \quad i=1, \dots, N,$$

and where 1 is a vector of all ones of size N, $I_{oc}W$ is the interference that the
 10 base station receives from other base stations, W is a bandwidth of the
 communication system, N_0 is an Additive White Gaussian Noise (AWGN)
 12 value, h_i is a channel gain from an i^{th} user station to the base station, A_{\min} and
 A_{\max} are $N \times N$ matrices defined by:

$$14 \quad A_{\min} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{Wh_1}{R_{\min 1} \gamma_1} & -h_2 & \dots & -h_N \\ -h_1 & \frac{Wh_2}{R_{\min 2} \gamma_2} & \dots & -h_N \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -h_1 & -h_2 & \dots & \frac{Wh_N}{R_{\min N} \gamma_N} \end{bmatrix} ,$$

$$A_{max} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{Wh_1}{R_{max1}\gamma_1} & -h_2 & \dots & -h_N \\ -h_1 & \frac{Wh_2}{R_{max2}\gamma_2} & \dots & -h_N \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -h_1 & -h_2 & \dots & \frac{Wh_N}{R_{maxN}\gamma_N} \end{bmatrix}$$

18 where $(E_b/\eta_0)_i = \gamma_i$, $i=1, \dots, N$, $R_{min_i} \leq R_i \leq R_{max_i}$, $i=1, \dots, N$, and $P_i \leq P_{max_i}$, $i=1, \dots, N$.

44. A method for use in a communication system having at least first and second base stations exchanging communication signals with at least first and second user stations, respectively, the method comprising:

receiving, at the first and second base stations, transmission rate or power requests from the first and second user stations, respectively, and from other user stations;

independently from the second base station, determining at the first base station optimum rate or power assignments, including an optimum rate or power assignment for the first user station, based on received requested rates or powers by weighting a sum of the requested rates or powers subject to predetermined rate or power values and subject to interference from the second base station;

independently from the first base station, determining at the second base station optimum rate or power assignments, including an optimum rate or power assignment for the second user station, based on received requested rates or powers by weighting a sum of the requested rates or powers subject to predetermined rate or power values and subject to interference from the first base station; and

at the first and second base stations, transmitting first and second rate or power assignment signals to the first and second user stations, all respectively, wherein the first and second assignment signals specify at least rate or power transmission criteria at which the first and second user stations are to transmit data, respectively.

45. The method of claim 44 wherein receiving transmission rate or
2 power requests includes receiving a transmission rate request, and wherein
determining optimum rate or power assignments includes:
4 optimizing power values based on the received rate requests and
based on interference from adjacent base stations; and
6 identifying rates corresponding to the optimized power values;
and wherein transmitting first and second rate or power assignment
8 signals includes transmitting first and second identified rates.

46. The method of claim 44 wherein the predetermined rate or
2 power values include a user stations' maximum transmit power and a
discrete set of transmission rates, and wherein weighting a sum of the
4 requested rates or powers is also subject to maximum rise-over-thermal
interference and minimum required error rate.

47. The method of claim 44 wherein receiving transmission rate or
2 power requests includes receiving a transmission rate request, and wherein
determining optimum rate or power assignments includes assigning higher
4 transmission rates for user stations closer to a center of a cell in which the
first base station is located.

48. A method for use in a communication system having at least
2 first and second base stations exchanging communication signals with at
least first and second user stations, respectively, the method comprising:
4 receiving, at the first and second base stations, transmission rate
requests from the first and second user stations, respectively, and from other
6 user stations;
at the first and second base stations, determining channel gains for the
8 first and second user stations, respectively, and from other user stations;
independently from the second base station, determining at the first
10 base station optimum rate assignments, including an optimum rate
assignment for the first user station, based on received requested rates by
12 assigning higher rates for user stations having higher channel gains;

independently from the first base station, determining at the second
14 base station optimum rate assignments, including an optimum rate
assignment for the second user station, based on received requested rates by
16 assigning higher rates for user stations having higher channel gains; and
at the first and second base stations, transmitting first and second rate
18 assignment signals to the first and second user stations, all respectively,
wherein the first and second rate assignment signals specify at least rate
20 transmission criteria at which the first and second user stations are to
transmit data, respectively.

49. The method of claim 48 wherein determining optimum rate
2 assignments includes:
optimizing power values based on the received rate requests and
4 based on interference from adjacent base stations; and
identifying rates corresponding to the optimized power values.

50. The method of claim 48 wherein determining optimum rate
2 assignments includes optimizing power values based on the received rate
requests, user stations' maximum transmit power, a discrete set of
4 transmission rates, maximum rise-over-thermal interference, and
minimum required error rate.

51. The method of claim 48 wherein determining optimum rate
2 assignments includes assigning higher transmission rates for user stations
closer to a center of a cell in which the first base station is located.

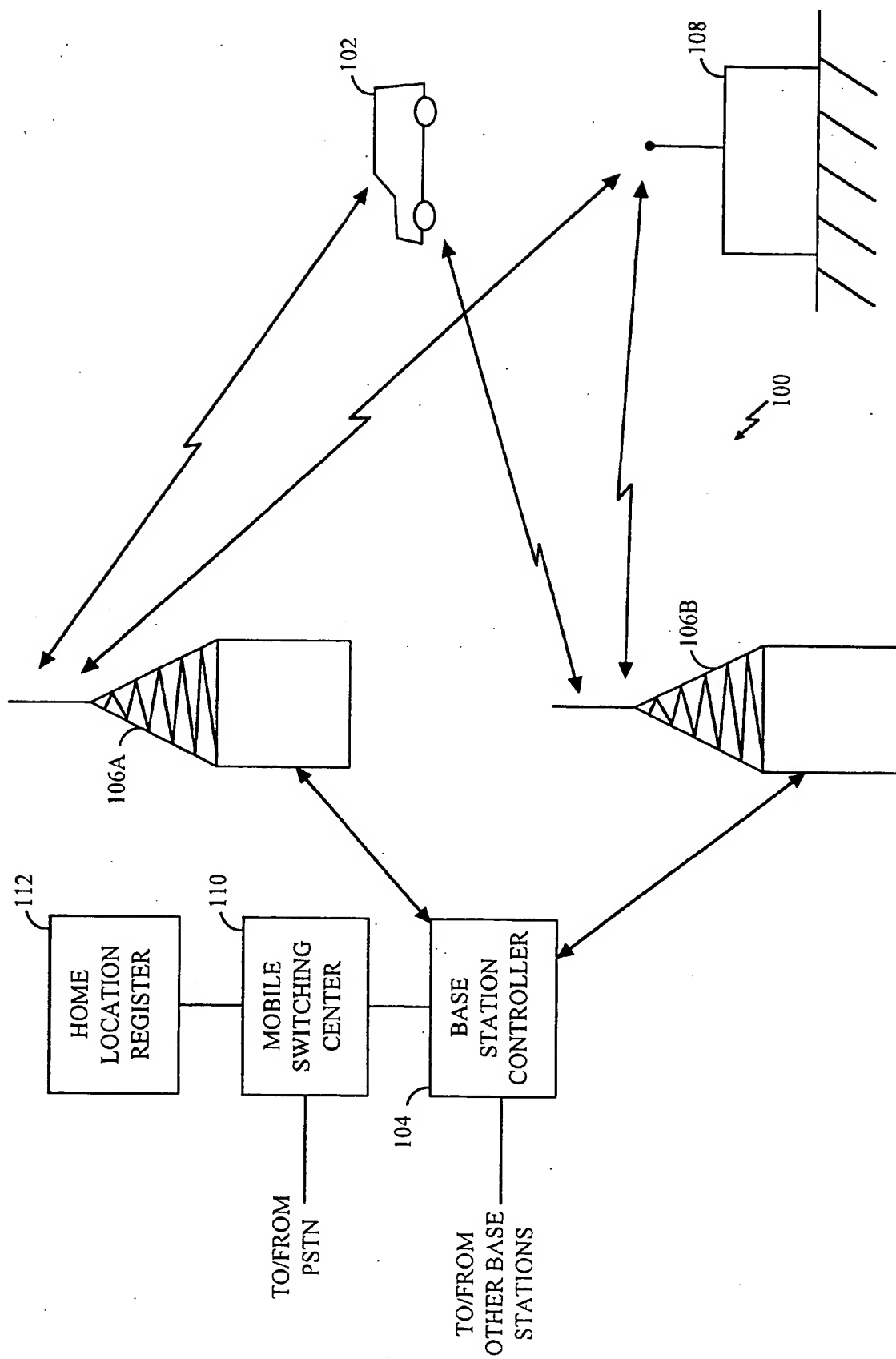


FIG. 1

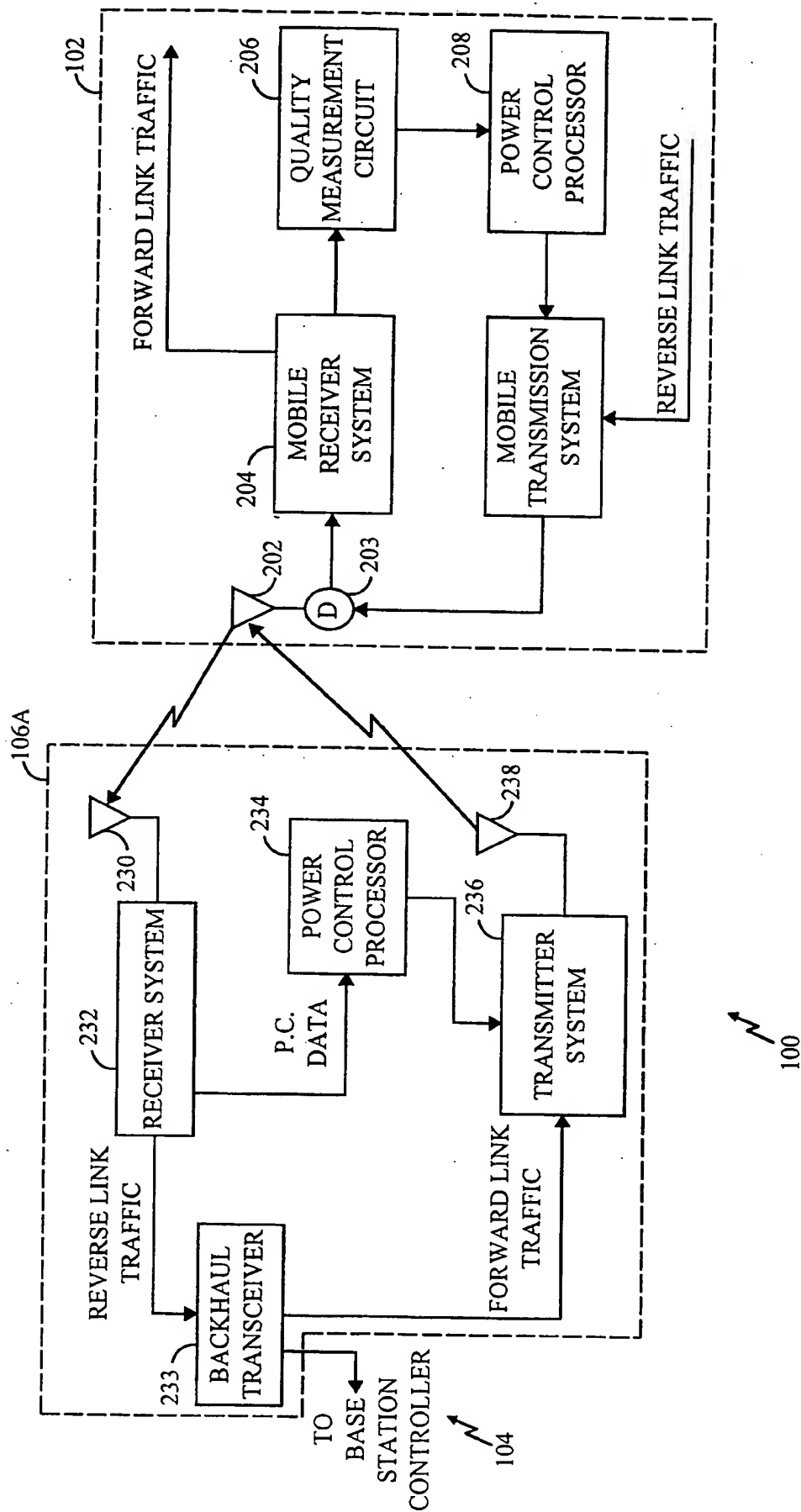


FIG. 2

3/5

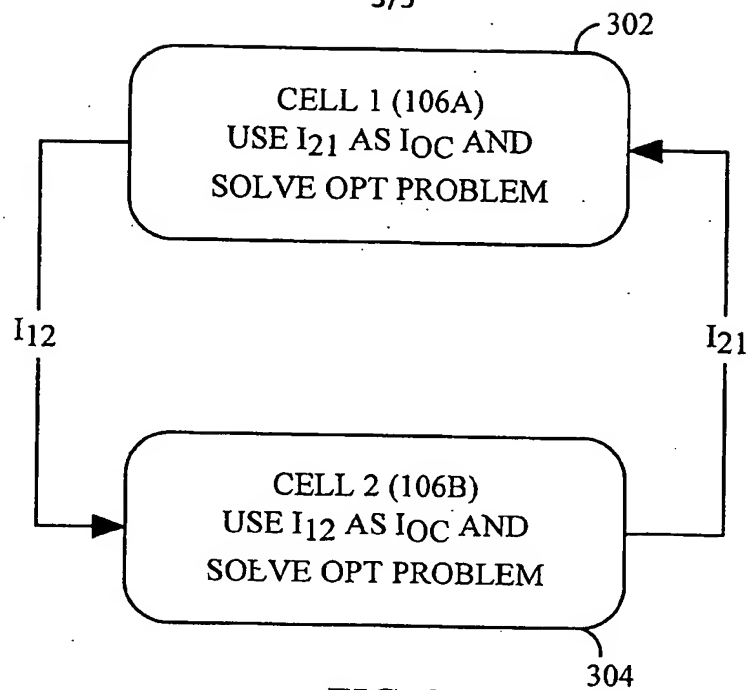


FIG. 3

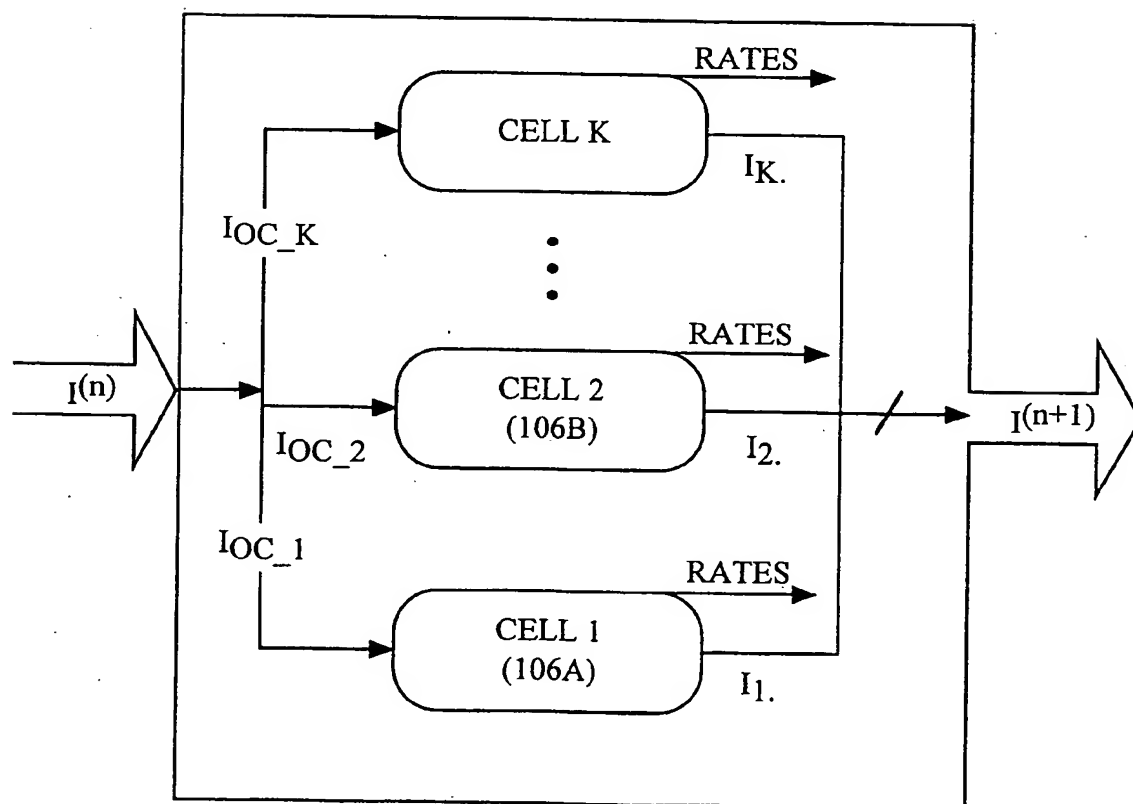


FIG. 4

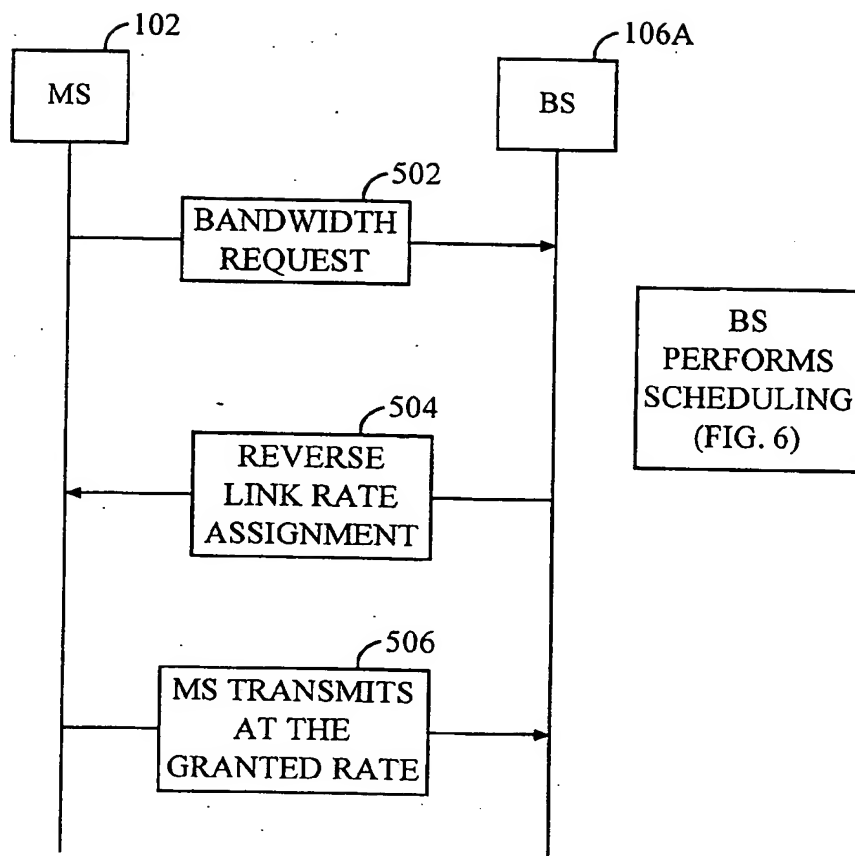


FIG. 5

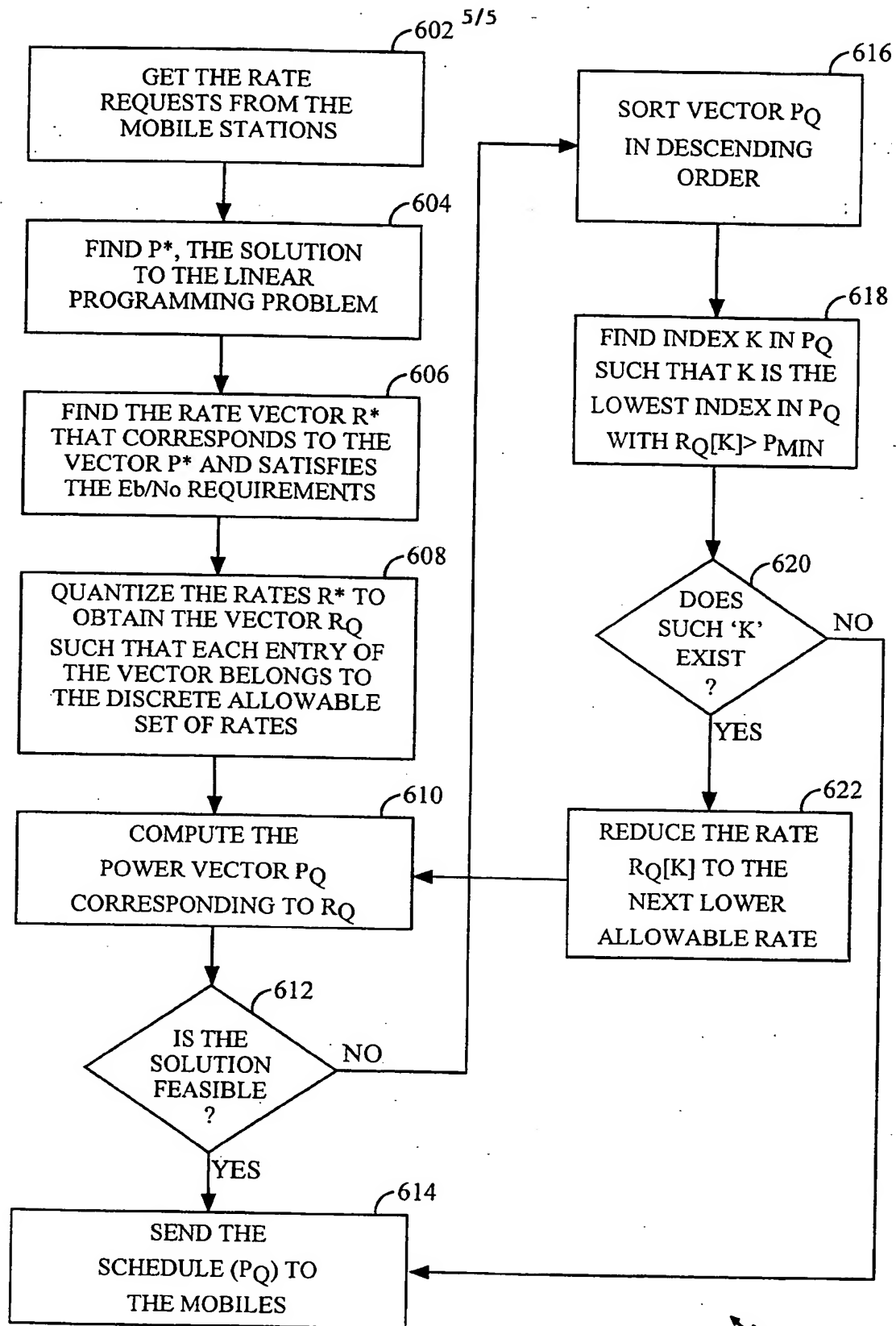


FIG. 6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 99/20982

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H04B7/005 H0407/38

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 H04B H04Q H04L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 825 741 A (SONY) 25 February 1998 (1998-02-25) column 20, line 3 -column 21, line 17 ---	1,9,17, 21,29, 37,44,48
A	EP 0 767 548 A (AT&T) 9 April 1997 (1997-04-09) column 1, line 5-8,53-57 column 2, line 17-28 column 6, line 13-48 column 11, line 44 -column 12, line 44 --- -/--	1,9,17, 21,29, 37,44,48

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

11 January 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

24/01/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Dheere, R

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/US 99/20982

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>WO 98 02981 A (ERICSSON) 22 January 1998 (1998-01-22)</p> <p>page 3, line 31 -page 5, line 23 page 6, line 2-11 page 17, line 4 -page 18, line 26</p>	<p>1,9,17, 21,29, 37,44,48</p>
A	<p>WO 97 37457 A (ADICOM) 9 October 1997 (1997-10-09)</p> <p>page 1, line 11-15 page 6, line 12-20 page 7</p>	<p>1,9,17, 21,29, 37,44,48</p>
A	<p>WO 98 35514 A (QUALCOM) 13 August 1998 (1998-08-13)</p> <p>page 8, line 9-15 page 11, line 4 -page 13, line 11</p>	<p>1,9,17, 21,29, 37,44,48</p>

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 99/20982

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 825741	A	25-02-1998	JP 10065604 A AU 3524797 A CN 1185709 A	06-03-1998 26-02-1998 24-06-1998
EP 767548	A	09-04-1997	US 5734646 A CA 2184772 A JP 9186646 A NO 964220 A	31-03-1998 06-04-1997 15-07-1997 07-04-1997
WO 9802981	A	22-01-1998	AU 3789997 A CA 2260062 A DE 19781949 T GB 2330490 A	09-02-1998 22-01-1998 30-09-1999 21-04-1999
WO 9737457	A	09-10-1997	US 5745480 A AU 2547197 A CN 1215517 A EP 0888674 A	28-04-1998 22-10-1997 28-04-1999 07-01-1998
WO 9835514	A	13-08-1998	AU 6276298 A CA 2251397 A EP 0897644 A	26-08-1998 13-08-1998 24-02-1999